

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SAM-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-19

IO-14 DRC-01 /124 W

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O R 201232Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0545

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 02740

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, GW, GE, WB, UR, US, FR, UK

SUBJECT: TRIPARTITE AMBASSADORIAL MEETING ON BERLIN

CONSULTATIONS PAPER

REF: STATE 32423

1. AT TRIPARTITE AMBASSADORIAL MEETING FEBRUARY 19, AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND PRESENTED DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS (REFTTEL) ON WESTERN CONSULTATION PAPER ON BERLIN AND CIRCULATED TEXT OF PROPOSED PAPER. BOTH UK AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS FELT THAT THE IDEA OF A CONSULTATIONS PAPER DID NOT REALLY FACE UP TO THE DIFFICULT CONCRETE QUESTIONS THAT THE ALLIES WOULD FACE IN THE AREA OF FEDERAL PRESENCE IN COMING MONTHS. FRENCH AMBASSADOR SAID HE CONSIDERED OUR PROPOSAL A PROCEDURAL RATHER THAN A SUBSTANTIVE ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM AND COMMENTED JOKINGLY THAT HE THOUGHT IT PROBABLY ABOUT AS MUCH USE AS A BANDAID ON A WOODEN LEG.

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2. UK AMBASSADOR ALSO EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT AND SAID THE DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSAL WOULD NOT MEET THE FEDERAL PRESENCE PROBLEM DIRECTLY. BOTH UK AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS SAW NO DIFFICULTIES IN AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND PRESENTING THE US IDEAS IN CONCEPTUAL FORM AT THE AMBASSADORIAL LUNCH WITH FRG- FONOFF STATE SECRETARY FRANK FEBRUARY 20 BUT THEY EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT IT WOULD GO DOWN WELL WITH THE LATTER.

3. FRENCH AMBASSADOR THEN REVERTED AGAIN TO HIS IDEA OF A GENERAL ALLIED SUGGESTION TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THAT FURTHER ENHANCEMENT OF THE FEDERAL PRESENCE BE HALTED FOR THE TIME BEING. HE THOUGHT THAT THIS APPROACH, COMBINED WITH THE US CONSULTATION PAPER, WOULD BE A SUITABLE SOLUTION TO A DIFFICULT PROBLEM. AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND EXPRESSED US RESERVATIONS. FRENCH AMBASSADOR SHRUGGED AND SAID WE MIGHT HAVE TO COME TO IT NONETHELESS, WHEN THE SOVIET/GDR PRESSURES BECAME STRONG ENOUGH.

4. MEETING CONCLUDED WITH AGREEMENT THAT AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND WOULD PRESENT US IDEA ON FEBRUARY 20. DEPENDING ON FRG REACTION, MATTER COULD THEN BE REFERRED TO BONN GROUP ON A PRIORITY BASIS FOR ACTUAL DRAFTING OF TEXT. AS TO THE HANDLING OF ACTUAL PRESENCE PROBLEMS THAT MIGHT ARISE IN THE MEANTIME, THESE WOULD BE CONSIDERED ON AN AD HOC BASIS. ALL THREE AMBASSADORS NOTED THAT THE SHAPE OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS AREA MIGHT BECOME CLEARER AFTER BAHR'S END-OF-THE MONTH VISIT TO MOSCOW.

5. COMMENT: NEITHER UK NOR FRENCH AMBASSADOR WAS HAPPY WITH OUR CONSULTATIONS PAPER PROPOSAL. THEY OBVIOUSLY CONSIDERED THAT IT WOULD NOT SERVE OUR ACTUAL NEEDS WHEN AND AS PRESENCE PROBLEMS PRESENT THEMSELVES. HOWEVER, THEY SEE NO HARM IN OUR PROPOSAL AND WILL THEREFORE ACCEPT OUR PROCEEDING WITH IT WITH THE GERMANS. BUT IF WE RUN INTO DIFFICULTIES WITH THE LATTER, THE UK AND FRENCH PROBABLY WILL NOT PROVIDE US WITH MUCH SUPPORT.

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HILLENBRAND

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